

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to remove the necessity for a restriction requirement between Groups I and II. Claim 1 has been amended (as it was in the International Phase) to require at least two sialic acid units linked 2.8 and/or 2.9 in the polysaccharide. This distinguishes the composition of claim 1 from the cited patent US 5,329,028. Therefore, the compounds of Group I and of Group II have a common technical feature in that all of them require at least two sialic acid residues coupled to a functional moiety pendant to a terminal unit. Thus, unity-of-invention is present.

Should the Office determine otherwise, applicants elect to prosecute the invention of Group I with traverse.

The claims of Group III, directed to a process for making the compound of Group I or of using it, are believed eligible for rejoinder in the event that the elected claims are allowed. Claim 11 has been made dependent on claim 1 in view of this. However, in light of the common technical feature now present in both claims 1 and 11, it is believed that unity-of-invention is present and that the claims of Group III should not be withdrawn from prosecution in the current application.

New claims 23-29 represent dependent claims which reflect the preferred embodiments of claims 12, 14 and 15, which were not in a form preferred by U.S. practice, and further reflect the limitations of current claim 10 as applied, however, to the process claims.

Claim 7 has been amended to correct an obvious error in the first definition of R¹ and R².

No new matter has been added and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket No. 429022001300.

Respectfully submitted,

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